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From: Gillian Cornwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 December 2015 2:02 PM
To: SI Feedback
Subject: Submission: Review of the self-insurer licensing framework

Dear SIRA,

I would like to submit feedback regarding the review of the self-insurer licensing framework.

I was a teacher and am now a Safety Professional and Auditor. I have been working in Health and Safety for 10 years. It is not my chosen field but I don't regret changing professions for a second. I am proud to tell people that I work in safety, when they ask why, I tell them the same thing – because what I do helps keep workers safe.

I work with many organisations large and small, including a number of Self-Insurers and think the current self-insurer licensing framework is incredibly worthwhile. For many organisations, especially in hard financial times, safety becomes a 'will do if I have to' thing, rather than systematic practice. However, with Self-Insurers the knowledge that they will be checked helps keep safety a priority and therefore helps ensure good practice that achieves the ultimate goal – safety for workers. Further, Self-Insurers interact on many levels with a large number of smaller employers. Self-Insurers expect strong safety practices in their contractors and suppliers, so safety is also seen as important to smaller businesses.

I know from working with a number of Self-Insurers that worker injuries have dropped over their time in the scheme. By employing good safety practices workers are having less, and just as importantly less severe, injuries. As the recent WorkCover NSW adverts show, we all want workers going home at the end of the day to their families.

This is why I support the current 3 year audit frequency for Self-Insurers that meet the required benchmarks and annual audits for Self-Insurers that don't. I think that the Regulator (formerly WorkCover NSW) current schedule of audits works well. I think extending audit periods past 3 years to 5 years (or never) is a bad idea. Safety standards would suffer within the Self-Insurers' workplaces and injury rates would rise.

The Regulator has a very hard job monitoring safety, but current practices of regular Self-Insurer audits helps keeps workers safe.

Yours sincerely,
G Cornwell

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